

## Message Text

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FOL REPEAT OF STATE 004798 TO MOGADISCIO JAN 08

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SUBJECT: SENATOR BARTLETT'S NEWS RELEASE OF SOVIET  
ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA

1. SENATOR DEWEY BARTLETT ISSUED A NEWS RELEASE ON  
JANUARY 7 BASED ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INFORMATION  
WHICH LISTED EXAMPLES OF SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN SOMALIA  
THE INFORMATION HE SAID "APPEARS TO BRING INTO FOCUS A  
COMPREHENSIVE SOVIET PROGRAM FOR EXPANSIONIST POLICIES ON  
THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA."

2. STORIES ON BARTLETT'S RELEASE HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON  
REUTER AND UPI. THEY HAVE NOT YET APPEARED IN THE NY  
TIMES OR THE WASHINGTON POST, BUT MAY DO SO TOMORROW. VOA  
HAS BROADCAST STORY BASED ON RELEASE. WE WILL TRANSMIT  
TEXT TO YOU WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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3. TEXT OF BARTLETT RELEASE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: WHILE OUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN TURNED TO RUSSIAN MILITARY EFFORT IN ANGOLA, THE SOVIET UNION EVEN NOW CONTINUES MILITARY DEVELOPMENT OF ANOTHER STRATEGIC POINT ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, SOMALIA. IF ANYONE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT EXPANDING ITS MILITARY

PRESENCE IN VITAL AREAS OF THE WORLD THEY CAN SET ASIDE THAT MISCONCEPTION WITH A LOOK AT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN SOMALIA SINCE MY FACT FINDING MISSION TO THE COUNTRY IN JULY, 1975.

1. STYX MISSILE CRATES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE AT BERBERA. INCLUDING THE TWO PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED, AT LEAST 30 STYX MISSILES ARE NOW BELIEVED TO BE AT BERBERA.

2. OSA-II PATROL BOATS DELIVERED TO SOMALIA. TWO OSA-II-CLASS GUIDED MISSILE PATROL BOATS HAVE BEEN TOWED TO BERBERA AND DELIVERY OF A THIRD OSA-II IS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THESE OSA'S ARE PROBABLY INTENDED FOR THE SOMALI NAVY, AND SOMALI NAVAL PERSONNEL HAVE GONE TO THE USSR FOR TRAINING.

3. CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON THE NEW BERBERA AIRFIELD. THIS AIRFIELD, WHEN COMPLETED, COULD ACCOMMODATE ANY KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE SOVIET INVENTORY. EXCAVATION IS UNDERWAY FOR POL TANKS, AND MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE BEING BUILT AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE RUNWAY. IT COULD BE COMPLETED LATE THIS YEAR IF CONSTRUCTION CONTINES.

4. A LARGE SOVIET-BUILT FLOATING DRYDOCK HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO SOMALIA. TOWED BY THREE MERCHANT TUGS, IT ARRIVED AT BERBERA FROM THE BLACK SEA IN DECEMBER. A DRYDOCK THIS SIZE CAN ACCOMMODATE SOVIET SHIPS UP TO AND INCLUDING KRESTA II-CLASS GUIDED-MISSILE LIGHT CRUISERS. MOSCOW'S INTENTIONS REGARDING THE DRYDOCK ARE NOT KNOWN, BUT IT COULD INCREASE THE SOVIET'S CAPABILITY TO MAINTAIN SHIPS IN THE AREA FOR EXTENDED PERIODS.

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5. SECURED STORAGE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED AT MOGADISCIO AND ISCIA BAIDOA. A LARGE SECURED STORAGE FACILITY SIMILAR TO, BUT LARGER THAN THE ONE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AT DARAWEINA IS LOCATED NEAR MOGADISCIO. AS AT DARAWEINA, THIS FACILITY IS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN WOULD BE NEEDED FOR ORDINARY AMMUNITION STORAGE, BUT THE PRECISE FUNCTION OF THE FACILITY IS NOT YET CLEAR. A THIRD STORAGE FACILITY

ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ONE AT DARAWEINA IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR ISCIA BAIDOA. WHILE THE INTENDED USE OF THESE FACILITIES MAY BE RELATED TO THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF SOMALI MILITARY UNITS, SOME TYPE OF SOVIET USE OF THE FACILITIES CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

6. CHISIMAIO NAVAL FACILITY EXPANDED. A POSSIBLE MISSILE ASSEMBLY AND CHECKOUT FACILITY SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO

THE BERBERA MISSILE FACILITY IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CHISIMAIO. MISSILE ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN THE AREA INDICATES THAT MISSILES WILL PROBABLY BE SERVICED THERE IN THE FUTURE, BUT THE EXACT FUNCTION OF THE FACILITY IS NOT YET KNOWN.

7. THE SOVIETS MAY BE INTERESTED IN BAJUN ISLANDS. SOME KIND OF FACILITIES MAY BE PLANNED FOR THESE ISLANDS LOCATED ABOUT 18 MILES OFF THE CHISIMAIO COAST. THE EXACT NATURE OF SOVIET INTERESTS IN THIS AREA IS NOT YET KNOWN, BUT SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE VISITED THE ISLANDS TWICE SINCE 1974.

8. SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL UNITS, INCLUDING A SUBMARINE TENDER AND SUBMARINE, CONTINUE TO USE THE BERBERA PORT.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS VIEWED THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AS STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT PIECES IN ITS PLAN TO COMPLETE THE PUZZLE OF WORLD DOMINATION. AS THE SOVIET SPHERE OF INFLUENCE CONTINUES TO EXPAND AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, I FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES' INFLUENCE AND CREDIBILITY MAY BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIMINISHED TO A POSITION FROM WHICH IT CANNOT RECOVER. ACTION TO NEUTRALIZE SOVIET INFLUENCE HAS TO BE TAKEN NOW, NOT ONE, FIVE, OR TEN YEARS FROM NOW WHEN IT MAY BE TOO LATE. UNQUOTE KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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